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MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

3 February 1956

Present

Members: John Lacey, State  
Richard Bauer, Army  
John Shearer, Navy  
Maj. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

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Consultants: Lt. J. A. Dugger, Navy  
Capt. Charles Colville, ATIC/Air Force  
George Pughe, AID/Air Force

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1. The 64th meeting convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 63rd meeting were approved with the following emendations:

a. Page 2, paragraph 2: Mr. Bauer wanted to point out that Army at present was satisfied with the periodicity of the Indonesia report but would not object if it were put out more currently.

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b. Page 3, paragraph four: Substitute [REDACTED] for Mr. Bauer.

2. Comments on the Annual Report

State and Air Force representatives made suggested changes which were discussed and then accepted by the Subcommittee members. The Annual Report with the agreed changes will be forwarded to the FLP Committee. Copies for Subcommittee members are attached to these minutes.

3. Comments on the Report and Recommendations to the FLP Committee

In answer to Mr. Lacey's desire in the last meeting

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reword the text of the Report more forcefully, the Chairman rewrote the first paragraph of the text. This rewrite was distributed to the members for their consideration. Mr. Lacey noted that in the course of the meetings individuals have said that they not only liked the FDD products, but that these reports yield information which cannot be obtained from any other source. He felt that further emphasis should be placed on the value of foreign language publications and suggested that this sentence be added in the 12th line after the word "information," "It was found time and again that exploitation provided more unique information."

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At this point [REDACTED] suggested that attention be given to the recommendations of Tabs A and B before final consideration of the text. This was agreed to.

Major Neumann then requested that as Capt. Colville had flown in from ATIC for this meeting the Committee turn its attention first to the scientific and technical portion. This was agreed to.

Air Force: Capt. Colville read the following prepared statement regarding the scientific and technical portion of the recommendations:

The Air Technical Intelligence Center has objectively reviewed Tabs A and B with a large measure of interest and equally large measure of apprehension. It is indeed difficult, in view of the recognized critical need for increasing exploitation of scientific and technical literature, to comprehend the position taken that "requirement screening" of a tremendous volume of literature as evidenced in Tabs A and B will provide the only effective means toward developing assessment of the Soviet State of the Art. The question might well be asked, "How can any responsible analyst in a given organization honestly condone the practice of having his responsibilities met by reliance upon an individual charged with examining hundreds of pages of S & T literature received relative to the specific interests of one analyst or an entire organization?" At best, the analyst can realize only what "appears" to the examiner to be significant information. Is it not the innumerable small details that serve to support and, most importantly, confirm and further developmental assessment of an alien power? Significant indications generally do not appear clear and defined. Generally, significant indications are the result of constant endeavorment to interrelate small details.

It is, therefore, strongly urged that abstracting be accorded the importance that it deserves by this Committee. Cover-to-cover abstracting is, in many cases, not entirely justifiable to one user, as many fields will be covered not necessarily of interest to one organization. Each organization has its single interest but material of no value to one is of significant value to another. If each organization charged with S & T responsibilities

could rightfully assume a share of the abstracting effort, it would soon be realized that cover-to-cover abstracting is essential in order to satisfy and assure proper coverage for all concerned. Essentially, a good abstract leads to further exploitation of a given subject and, properly related, to an effective analysis.

Therefore, ATIC restates its previous position: 1) that the abstracting effort should be continued as a collective responsibility with all organizations dealing in science and technology providing abstracting service and, 2) the abstracting effort should be expanded to include new and more important periodicals.

It is assumed that, from the reading of Tabs A and B, CIA does not propose to continue its abstracting effort. This leaves Air Force alone to shoulder a cover-to-cover abstracting effort which is neither desirable nor justified. Adoption therefore of Tab A will necessitate ATIC's official withdrawal from the collective abstracting program entirely. Selective abstracting will be implemented and present governmental dissemination will be necessarily sharply curtailed.

Captain Colville added that there is a means whereby the Committee can establish a need for a certain number of periodicals to satisfy all agencies. The details can be worked out by each representative organization. Tab B indicates additional coverage of certain scientific and technological publications of the Soviet Union which Air feels can be handled adequately by the abstracting method. As far as ATIC is concerned, if they have a good abstract, they can go into further exploitation which leads to a reasonably defined analysis of a particular subject. That, in effect, is the stand of ATIC.

At this point the Chairman pointed out the fact that this report and recommendations are in draft form and not necessarily what actually was going to be submitted to the FLP Committee, but was drawn up for the use of each agency on the basis of discussion to date. It is an endeavor to pin-point what is wanted by the various agencies and various changes are expected to be made in this draft.

Maj. Neumann added that a review of the other analysts with Targets and Estimates revealed that to the largest majority of these analysts abstracting is their life blood.

The Chairman distributed the recommendations for the Far East and the Near East to be added to Tab A of the report and recommendations to the FLP Committee.

25X1A [REDACTED] passed out to the members copies of a paper entitled "Recommended Features of Exploitation Services for Soviet Bloc

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Scientific and Technical Literature," which is being made part of the record.

4. The agenda for the next meeting will be the continuation of the recommendations to the FLP Committee (scientific portion first).

5. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held 17 February 1956, at 1400 hours, in Room 2125 M Building.

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Final  
17 Feb 1956

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS  
TO THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

1. The Subcommittee on Exploitation of Foreign Language Publications held 21 meetings during 1955. By mid-year the Subcommittee had completed its second review of the exploitation program giving special attention to (a) the principal exploitation requirements levied upon FDD by the intelligence community; (b) the coverage provided by existing facilities other than FDD and their capacity to fill in whole or in defined parts any additional requirements which would release FDD effort for wider and deeper coverage in other required fields; (c) the pertinence and periodicity of FDD reports; and (d) the manpower allocations in FDD.

The refinement of the FDD program in response to Subcommittee findings and recommendations resulted in the production of 43 periodical reports (Tab A.) which have included much unique information needed by the intelligence community.

2. During the year the Subcommittee re-examined and restated its own objectives (Tab B.) which had become more clearly seen and defined after the experience afforded by two years of continuous work.

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3. At the request of the Advisory Committee a review of the transliteration practices of the IAC agencies was started. As of the end of the year, not all agencies had reported on this matter. It is anticipated that a report will be drawn up early in 1956.

4. In response to a growing need for standardization of Chinese Communist terminology, the Subcommittee established a Working Group to examine this problem. The Working Group completed its assignment during the year and the Subcommittee is now studying its report.

5. A third review of the exploitation program is currently under way for the Sino-Soviet Bloc and exploitation of non-Communist area publications will follow. The objectives of this review are:

a. To determine as precisely as possible the priority needs of the various agencies using the criteria.

(1) The application of requirements to National Intelligence Objectives as outlined in DCID 4/5.

(2) The needs for the same or similar information by several agencies.

(3) The suitability of available foreign language publications to meet these needs.

b. To determine precisely what needs of the respective agencies cannot be met by existing facilities.

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c. To recommend allocation of available manpower so as to satisfy the most urgent requirements of the agencies.

d. To report in detail to the Advisory Committee with recommendations as to how foreign language publications, not now exploited, may be processed for needed intelligence information.

The findings of this review are expected to be completed early in 1956 and will be duly reported.

6. It is recommended that Tab B, the redefined Objectives of the Exploitation Subcommittee, be approved.

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Subcommittee on Exploitation of  
Foreign Language Publications